

Response to Office Action dated October 6, 2005
U.S. Serial No.: 10/473,473; filed September 26, 2003
Inventor: Riedl
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Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A soil compacting device comprising:
a lower mass that comprises a compacting plate, an upper mass connected with the lower mass via a spring damping device, a vibration generator that loads the compacting plate, and an undercarriage having one or more roller elements situated in rotatable fashion on an undercarriage axle for the transport of the device,
wherein- the undercarriage axle is stationary in relation to the device;
 - the undercarriage is attached to the lower mass; and wherein
 - in a transport position, the compacting plate does not touch the soil, but the roller elements touch the soil and bear the weight of the device.
2. (Previously Presented) The soil compacting device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein, for a given roller element diameter, the axial position of the undercarriage axle is selected in such a way that
 - in a vibrating position, the compacting plate makes flat contact with the soil and the roller elements do not touch the soil, anda changeover between the two positions being possible by tipping the overall device about an axis that corresponds essentially to the undercarriage axle.
3. (Previously Presented) The soil compacting device as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the axial position of the undercarriage axle and the size of the roller elements are selected such that
 - in the vibrating position, there is a distance (a) between a soil contact surface of the compacting plate and the lowest point of the roller elements, and

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- a distance (b) results by which, in the transport position, the roller elements extend past what is then the lowest point of the compacting plate.

4. (Previously Presented) The soil compacting device as recited in claim 1, wherein the undercarriage axle is situated above the compacting plate.

5. (Previously Presented) The soil compacting device as recited in claim 1, wherein the roller elements have an intentional imbalance.

6. (Previously Presented) The soil compacting device as recited in claim 2, wherein a step surface is laterally present on the upper mass for the supporting of a moment required for the change of positions.

7. (Previously Presented) The soil compacting device as claimed in claim 3, wherein a step surface is laterally present on the upper mass for the supporting of a moment required for the change of positions.

8. (New) A soil compacting device comprising:
a lower mass including a compacting plate;
an upper mass;
a spring damping device coupling the lower mass to the upper mass;
a vibration generator that generates vibrations in the compacting plate;
an undercarriage attached to the lower mass;
an undercarriage axle on the undercarriage; and

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at least one roller element that is mounted on the undercarriage via the undercarriage axle for transporting the soil compacting device, wherein

the undercarriage axle is stationary in relation to the undercarriage, and wherein the soil compacting device can assume a transport position in which the compacting plate is spaced from the soil and the entire weight of the compacting device is borne by the at least one roller element.

9. (New) The soil compacting device as claimed in claim 8, wherein, in a vibrating position of the compacting device, the compacting plate makes flat contact with the soil and the at least one roller elements does not touch the soil, and wherein the compacting device is changed over between the vibrating position and the transport position by tipping the compacting device about an axis that corresponds at least essentially to the undercarriage axle axis.

10. (New) The soil compacting device as claimed in claim 9, wherein in the vibrating position of the compacting device, there is a distance (a) between a soil contact surface of the compacting plate and the lowest point of the roller elements, and a distance (b) results by which, in the transport position, the roller elements extend past what is then the lowest point of the compacting plate.

11. (New) The soil compacting device as recited in claim 8, wherein the undercarriage axle is situated above the compacting plate.

12. (New) The soil compacting device as recited in claim 8, wherein the at least one roller element has an intentional imbalance.

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13. (New) The soil compacting device as recited in claim 9, wherein a step is laterally present on the upper mass for supporting a moment that effects the change between the transport and vibrating positions of the compacting device.
14. (New) The soil compacting device as claimed in claim 10, wherein a step is laterally present on the upper mass for supporting a moment that effects the change between the transport and vibrating positions of the compacting device.